

10/015,061PD00W009REMARKS

Following entry of the above amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending. Claim 13 has been amended to add a word inadvertently omitted, without change in the intended scope fo the claim. Claim 21 has been canceled to render moot its rejection on the basis of prior art.

Allowed Claims

The allowance of claims 1-12 and 15-20 is noted with appreciation.

Indefiniteness

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As noted above, claim 13 has been amended to add the inadvertently-omitted word "slot," thereby removing the ground for the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested. Claims 13 and 14 should thereby be placed into condition for allowance, since claims 13 and 14 depend directly or indirectly on allowed claim 1.

Information Disclosure Statement

A second Information Disclosure Statement was submitted by mail on June 9, 2003, making of record references cited in a corresponding PCT application. It is clear that this Information Disclosure Statement was not received by the Examiner at the time she prepared the Office Action. Consideration of the references cited in the second Information Disclosure Statement is requested prior to the issuance of the next Action.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of rejections is respectfully requested, in which case the application would be in condition for allowance.

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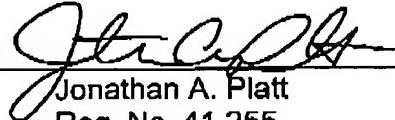
Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event that an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. No fee is believed due with the filing of this paper. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. RAYTP0110US).

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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